

1 Brian O. O'Mara (Bar No. 229737)
2 briano@dicellevitt.com
3 Steven M. Jodlowski (Bar No. 239074)
4 stevej@dicellevitt.com
5 DICELO LEVITT LLP
6 4747 Executive Drive, Suite 240
7 San Diego, California 92121
8 (619) 923-3939
9 Diandra S. Debrosse (*pro hac vice* forthcoming)
10 fu@dicellevitt.com
11 DICELO LEVITT LLP
12 505 20th Street S, Suite 1500
13 Birmingham, Alabama 35203
14 (205) 855-5700
15 *Counsel for Plaintiff*
16 [Additional counsel listed on signature page.]

17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

DEBRA MATARAZZO
v.
HENKEL AG & CO. KGAA, a/k/a
HENKEL CONSUMER GOODS,
INC.; HENKEL CORPORATION
d/b/a HENKEL NORTH AMERICAN
CONSUMER GOODS;
WELLA INTERNATIONAL
OPERATIONS SWITZERLAND
S.À.R.L.; WELLA OPERATIONS US
LLC d/b/a THE WELLA COMPANY;
CLAIROL; L'ORÉAL USA, INC.;
L'ORÉAL USA PRODUCTS, INC.;
and L'ORÉAL S.A.,

Defendants.

Case No.

COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 1. Plaintiff Debra Matarazzo brings this action against Defendants Henkel
 3 AG & Co. KGaA a/k/a Henkel Consumer Goods, Inc., and Henkel Corporation d/b/a
 4 Henkel North American Consumer Goods (collectively, “Henkel”); Wella
 5 International Operations Switzerland S.A.R.L., and Wella Operations US LLC d/b/a
 6 The Wella Company (collectively, “Wella”); Clairol (“Clairol”); L’Oréal USA, Inc.,
 7 L’Oréal USA Products, Inc., and L’Oréal S.A. (collectively, “L’Oréal ”) (and
 8 altogether, “Defendants”). She asserts claims for negligence, strict liability, failure
 9 to warn, fraud and other state and federal causes of action against the Defendants
 10 based on the dangerous design and defective manufacturing of their professional hair
 11 dye products, as well as their failure to warn her—a professional hair stylist—of the
 12 increased risk of bladder cancer caused by long-term exposure to Defendants’
 13 products. In support of Plaintiff’s claims, Plaintiff states as follows:

14

15 **II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

16 2. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction over this litigation under 28
 17 U.S.C. § 1332 because the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000, and Plaintiff and
 18 Defendants are citizens of different states.

19 3. This Court has personal jurisdiction over the Defendants in accordance
 20 with the allegations asserted here, as Defendants are authorized to do business and
 21 conduct business in California, have marketed, advertised, and made sales in
 22 California, and have sufficient minimum contacts with this State and/or sufficiently
 23 avails themselves to the markets of this State through their promotion, sales, and
 24 marketing within the State to render the exercise of jurisdiction by this Court
 25 allowable.

26 4. Venue is proper in the United States District Court for the Central
 27 District of California pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1391(b) and 18 U.S.C. § 1441(a) because
 28 Defendants do business within the state of California and this District.

1 **III. PARTIES**

2 5. Plaintiff Debra Matarazzo (“Plaintiff”) or (“Ms. Matarazzo”) is, and at
3 all times relevant to this action was, a citizen and resident of the State of New Jersey.

4 6. Henkel AG & Co. KGaA, also known as Henkel Consumer Goods, Inc.,
5 is foreign multinational chemical and consumer goods company headquartered at
6 Henkelstrasse 67, 40589 Dusseldorf, Germany, and is the parent company of Henkel
7 Corporation.

8 7. Henkel Corporation, doing business as Henkel North American
9 Consumer Goods, is an American company incorporated in Delaware and
10 headquartered in Connecticut. Henkel Corporation is a subsidiary of Henkel AG &
11 Co. KGaA, and has been in the business of manufacturing, distributing, and selling
12 hair dye in the United States for decades.

13 8. Wella International Operations Switzerland S.à.r.l. (“Wella
14 International”) is a Swiss corporation headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. Wella
15 maintains two American offices—one in New York, New York, and another in
16 Calabasas, California—and is the parent company of Wella Operations US LLC
17 d/b/a the Wella Company, which itself is the parent company of Clairol.

18 9. Wella Operations US LLC d/b/a the Wella Company is a Delaware
19 corporation with its principal place of business and headquarters located at 4500
20 Park Granada, Suite 100, Calabasas, California 91302. It is a subsidiary of Wella
21 International and the parent company of Clairol.

22 10. Clairol is an American corporation with its headquarters and principal
23 place of business located in Stamford, Connecticut. Clairol is incorporated in
24 Delaware and is a subsidiary of Wella Operations US LLC d/b/a the Wella
25 Company.

26 11. L’Oréal USA, Inc., is a Delaware corporation with its headquarters and
27 principal place of business located at 575 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York
28 10017. L’Oréal USA, Inc., is a subsidiary of L’Oréal S.A.

1 12. L'Oréal USA Products, Inc., is a Delaware corporation with its
2 headquarters and principal place of business located at 10 Hudson Yards 347, 10th
3 Avenue, New York, New York 10001.

4 13. L'Oréal S.A. is a foreign corporation with its headquarters and principal
5 place of business in France.

6

7 **IV. SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS**

8 **A. As a licensed cosmetologist, Ms. Matarazzo was exposed to**
9 **Defendants' carcinogenic hair dyes each day for 11 years.**

10 14. Plaintiff Debra Matarazzo ("Ms. Matarazzo") became a licensed
11 cosmetologist in New Jersey in 1988. She spent the next eleven years working at a
12 single salon in Brick, New Jersey.

13 15. A core part of Ms. Matarazzo's job as a professional hair stylist was
14 providing hair coloring services for her clients.

15 16. Ms. Matarazzo's clients wanted their hair colored for many different
16 reasons. Many felt that their grey hair—a natural result of aging—was unattractive
17 and wanted more "youthful" colors instead, such as blonde, brown, black, or red.
18 Others were simply unsatisfied with their natural hair color or wanted to alter their
19 hair color.

20 17. The areas and amounts of hair Ms. Matarazzo colored varied between
21 clients as well. Some only wanted highlights or to have their roots "touched up,"
22 some wanted only the tips colored, and others wanted to color the entirety of their
23 hair.

24 18. Regardless of the client's desired outcome, the process of coloring hair
25 was substantially the same for each one. Ms. Matarazzo's professional application
26 method involved applying the hair dye by hand and then leaving it in the clients'
27 hair, allowing the hair dye to penetrate and stain the hair to obtain the desired color.

28

1 19. After a period of weeks or months, and depending on the hair's natural
2 growth rate, the colored portion of the hair grows away from the scalp as new growth
3 sprouts from the roots. As the hair continues to grow, an obvious contrast emerges
4 between the colored portions and the new hair growth, prompting Ms. Matarazzo's
5 clients to color their hair on a routine basis to match the rest of their hair.

6 20. Ms. Matarazzo estimates that she performed anywhere from 75 to 100
7 hair coloring applications a week over the course of her 11-year professional career,
8 causing her to be exposed to Defendants' toxic hair dye products on a near-daily
9 basis, multiple times per day, as she applied the products to her clients' scalp.

10 11 12 **B. Defendants designed, marketed, and sold their toxic hair dyes
even though they knew that continuous long-term exposure
would significantly increase stylists' risk of cancer.¹**

13 14 15 16 17 18 21. For decades, Defendants have designed, manufactured, and marketed
their hair dye products to customers across the United States and the world.
Defendants' marketing schemes heavily leverage branding and slogans that
emphasize how dyed hair enhances users' physical beauty, sex appeal, and
youthfulness, all while failing to inform consumers, such as plaintiff, of the risks of
usage of their hair dyes.

19
20
21
22
23
24 1 The following discussion of various Defendant manufacturers and/or products is
25 not an exhaustive list of all hair dye manufacturers and/or products that have been
26 marketed to professional and retail users, nor is it an exhaustive list of all
27 manufacturers and/or products currently on the market. Rather, it is a
28 representative sample of how each Defendant has marketed their hair dye products
throughout the years.

1 **1. Henkel**

2 22. Henkel,² a multinational powerhouse founded in 1876, began as a
 3 detergent manufacturer. But by the mid-20th century, the company had strategically
 4 positioned itself within the cosmetic beauty industry. Through many acquisitions
 5 and expansion, Henkel cemented itself as a dominant force in the professional hair
 6 dye industry.

7 23. Henkel's foray into the professional hair dye market accelerated in
 8 1995 with its acquisition of Schwarzkopf. Under Henkel's control, Schwarzkopf
 9 launched lines like *Igora Royal* and *BlondMe*. Using pseudo-scientific marketing
 10 jargon, Henkel introduced so-called innovative formulas that promised healthier,
 11 shinier hair—all while manufacturing and selling carcinogenic hair dye products.

12 24. As Henkel expanded its grip on the industry, it acquired Joico, Zotos,
 13 and Pravana, in 2017, further expanding its footprint in the professional hair color.
 14 With each acquisition, the company tightened its stranglehold on salons, ensuring
 15 that professional stylists would continue to utilize their products.

16 25. Henkel marketed its professional hair dye products as safe,
 17 downplaying potential health risks associated with their use. For instance, the
 18 Schwarzkopf Professional *Igora Royal* line states that it can attain “true-to-swatch
 19 results, up to 100% coverage, and incredible color intensity” with claims of superior
 20 scalp comfort, suggesting a product that is both effective and gentle.

21 26. Similarly, Henkel's *BlondMe*, a high-lift blonde series launched in
 22 2007, is marketed as a “damage-protective” and bond-strengthening system, while
 23 the webpage for Joico's (a Henkel subsidiary) *Vero K-PAK Color* line claims that it
 24 “repairs and protects” hair during the coloring process. These statements misled and
 25

26 27 28

 2 “Henkel,” as used herein, refers to Defendants Henkel AG & Co. KGaA a/k/a
 Henkel Consumer Goods, Inc., and Henkel Corporation d/b/a Henkel North
 American Consumer Goods.

1 continue to mislead stylists into believing that Henkel's hair dye products are safe
 2 to use while concealing the fact that they are indeed carcinogenic.

3 27. One of the most glaring omissions in Henkel's marketing is the failure
 4 to inform stylists about the health risks associated with the exposure and handling of
 5 these chemical hair dyes, as none of the marketing, advertising, or packaging for
 6 Henkel's professional hair dyes contain a warning that prolonged inhalation of hair
 7 dye fumes exposes stylists to carcinogenic compounds like aromatic amines,
 8 amongst others—a major risk factor for an increased risk of bladder cancer.

9

10 **2. Wella**

11 28. Wella³ has long marketed its hair dye products as safe and effective,
 12 often emphasizing their commitment to quality and innovation.

13 29. For example, Wella solidified its grip on the beauty industry with the
 14 launch of its *Koleston* hair dye in 1950, which it claims was “the first cream
 15 colourant that nourishes the hair.”

16 30. The *Koleston* hair dye became so popular among stylists—reaching 5.5
 17 tubes sold worldwide in its first three years—that it spawned multiple subsequent
 18 derivative hair dye product lines. According to Wella, the *Koleston 100* series
 19 (launched in 1953) contained “a new formula so that hair can be lightened for the
 20 first time ever.” The *Koleston 200* and *300* series followed in 1959, adding lighter
 21 and darker color shades.

22 31. In 1974, Wella introduced its gel-based *Koleston 2000* line, which it
 23 claims “revolutionize[d] hair lightening with a colour system that was not as harsh
 24 on the hair.” And in 1981, it launched the *Koleston Blonde 2000 Special Blonde*

25

26

27

 28 ³ “Wella” as used herein, refers to Defendants Wella International Operations
 Switzerland S.A.R.L., and Wella Operations US LLC d/b/a The Wella Company.

1 series with a formula that would “gently colour and care for hair” during the
 2 lightening process, allowing darker blondes to go lighter.

3 32. The decades-long success of *Koleston* hair dye products led Wella to
 4 relaunch the *Koleston* product line as “*Koleston Perfect*” in 1995, claiming that it
 5 had more natural ingredients that would better ensure healthy hair.

6 33. *Koleston Perfect* remains one of Wella’s most popular professional hair
 7 dye product lines, currently marketed as Wella’s “purest permanent hair color and
 8 the first and only professional hair color combining uncompromised color
 9 performance with Metal Purifier and ME+ Dye Technology for true-to-tone color
 10 and protection from damage.”

11 34. *Koleston* is not Wella’s only prominent hair dye though. Its *Color*
 12 *Touch* product line was launched in 1988 and saw multiple variations across the next
 13 several decades including *Color Sensations* in 2002, an advanced hair dye product
 14 intended for professional application that allowed for more creative hair colors.

15 35. Wella’s *Illumina Color* line, launched in 2012, is one of the most
 16 popular hair dye products commonly used by professional hair stylists. This line is
 17 marketed as a breakthrough in hair dye technology which “protects hair while
 18 delivering a luminous, natural look.” The *Illumina Color* product line is heavily
 19 advertised in salons and professional hairdressing communities as a gentler
 20 alternative to other hair dyes.

21 36. Despite its “breakthrough” formulas and Wella’s misleading
 22 assurances of safety, Wella has never disclosed or warned professionals or
 23 consumers that its *Koleston Perfect*, *Color Sensations*, *Illumina Color*, and other
 24 professional hair dye products still contain aromatic amines and other carcinogenic
 25 properties, and nowhere in the marketing for these products does Wella warn of the
 26 increased risk of bladder cancer associated with occupational exposure.

27 37. Even with Wella’s *Color Touch* and *Color Fresh CREATE* product
 28 lines—which are each marketed as a “gentle, ammonia-free” hair dyes and

1 advertised as providing “damage-free color” with “a conditioning formula for
 2 healthier-looking hair”—these products are still carcinogens.

3

4 **3. Clairol**

5 38. Clairol⁴ is a subsidiary of Wella. The company’s breakthrough came in
 6 1950 with its *Miss Clairol Hair Color Bath* popular hair dye. Its famous slogan,
 7 “Does she... or doesn’t she?”, sought to engrain the belief that that women must
 8 conceal gray hair to remain attractive and relevant.

9 39. Clairol subsequently introduced *Nice ‘n Easy* in 1965 for long-lasting
 10 results and *Natural Instincts* in the 1990s to target those hesitant about harsh
 11 chemicals, touting the product as “the first hair color with a rare blend of natural
 12 ingredients—aloe, chamomile, and ginseng—*Natural Instincts* actually leaves your
 13 hair better conditioned than before you colored it.”⁵

14 40. Professional lines like *Liquicolor Permanente* and *Beautiful Collection*,
 15 both introduced in 2011, extended this grip into salons where stylists became
 16 unwitting agents of an industry that profited from convincing women that gray, dull,
 17 or uneven hair was unattractive.

18 41. For example, Clairol’s *Professional Liquicolor Permanente Gray*
 19 *Busters* line is marketed to hairstylists as “your secret weapon to your clients’
 20 fountain of youth[,]” offering “100% gray coverage every time.”⁶

21 42. Another Clairol product, *Beautiful Collection*, is a semi-permanent hair
 22 color line advertised as offering “rich, natural-looking color” with “zero-damage.”

23
 24 ⁴ “Clairol” as used herein, refers to only to Defendant Clairol.

25 ⁵ Clairol, 1990s TV Ad for *Natural Instincts* Hair Color, YouTube (Feb. 20, 2024),
 26 <https://youtu.be/psb-MFwKSKo?feature=shared>.

27 ⁶ Product Page, *Liquicolor Permanente GRAY BUSTERS*, ClairolPro.com,
 28 <https://www.clairolpro.com/products/color/liquicolor-permanente/information> (last accessed Mar. 4, 2025).

1 43. Despite growing awareness of harmful chemicals, as set forth below, in
 2 hair dyes, Clairol continues to prioritize profit over stylists' and consumers' health.
 3 Unlike products in industries where chemical exposure is a known hazard, Clairol's
 4 salon-use dyes do not carry visible warnings on the risks of prolonged exposure, nor
 5 do they encourage the use of protective items, including but not limited to, masks or
 6 enhanced ventilation beyond generic safety instructions. Many stylists, unaware of
 7 the scientifically established links between prolonged dye exposure and bladder
 8 cancer, continue to apply these products daily, unknowingly increasing their risk of
 9 developing bladder cancer.

10

11 **4. L'Oréal**

12 44. In 1978, L'Oréal⁷ launched *Majirel*, "the first-ever protective color"
 13 product it designed exclusively for application by professional stylists in salon
 14 settings. The *Majirel* hair dye line allowed L'Oréal's to permeate the salon industry,
 15 offering a "conditioning" permanent hair dye that disguised the products' harsh
 16 chemical processes behind promises of nourishment.

17 45. L'Oréal later introduced *iNOA* in 2009, touting its "first-ever ammonia
 18 free" permanent hair color product.

19 46. In recent years, L'Oréal has continued its calculated approach. By
 20 launching "natural" options like *Botanea*, the company sought to lure in more health-
 21 conscious consumers, still while failing to provide notice of the increased risk of
 22 bladder cancer attendant to occupational use of hair dyes.

23

24

25

26

27 7 L'Oréal" as used herein, refers to Defendants L'Oreal USA, Inc., L'Oreal USA
 28 Products, Inc., and L'Oreal S.A.

1 **C. Defendants designed and made their hair dyes using ingredients**
2 **which they knew were carcinogenic.**

3 47. The defendants' hair dye products are carcinogenic, and include
4 carcinogens such as aromatic amines, especially 4-aminobiphenyl (4-ABP), and
5 others such as benzidine, 2-naphthylamine, and 4-chloro-o-toluidine. Several
6 countries banned the use of these carcinogens in hair dyes in the 1970s, but studies
7 since then show that these ingredients still remain in Defendants' hair dyes,
8 especially 4-ABP and other aromatic amines.

9 48. A number of American and international governmental bodies have
10 identified known and suspected human carcinogens in hair dyes, corroborating a link
11 between hair dyes and bladder cancer.

12 49. The World Health Organization's International Agency for Research
13 on Cancer ("IARC") convenes working groups of world-renowned experts on cancer
14 biology, epidemiology, and other relevant sciences to review specific potential
15 carcinogen exposures and risk of developing specific cancers. IARC has reviewed
16 and published results of its analysis of carcinogens related to hair dye exposure and
17 its constituent chemicals. It has published papers on carcinogenic effects of hair
18 dyes and occupations with high hair dye exposure in 1971, 1978, 1982, 1987, 1993,
19 2001, 2010, 2012, and 2020.

20 50. IARC has classified several hair dye constituents as human carcinogens
21 (Group 1): benzidine, 4-aminobiphenyl (4-ABP), 2-naphthylamine, ortho-Toluidine,
22 and 4,4'-Methylenebis. The IARC also classified 4-Chloro-ortho-Toluidine as
23 "probably carcinogenic to humans" (Group 2A).

24 51. A 2012 IARC paper which reviewed data from animal exposure studies
25 and human occupational exposure studies found that "[t]here is sufficient evidence
26 in humans for the carcinogenicity of 4-Aminobiphenyl," and concluded that 4-ABP
27 "causes bladder cancer in humans." In that same report, IARC also concluded that
28 there is strong evidence indicating that 4-ABP is genotoxic, involving metabolic

1 activation, formation of DNA adducts, and induction of mutagenic (causing genetic
2 mutation) and clastogenic (causing chromosome breakage) effects.

3 52. The U.S. Department of Health and Services' National Toxicology
4 Program ("NTP") has identified o-Toluidine and Coal Tars and Coal-Tar Pitches as
5 "known carcinogens" among hair dyes' ingredients. It also classified other
6 chemicals in the products as "reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen."
7 including, 2,4Diaminoanisole Sulfate; 4-Chloro-o-phenylenediamine;
8 2,4Diaminotoluene; Disperse Blue 1; Benzidine and dyes metabolized to benzidine;
9 Basic Red 9 Monohydrochloride; and 4,4'Oxydianiline.

10 53. The FDA acknowledges that two carcinogens are commonly contained
11 in hair dyes: 4-methoxy-m-phenylenediamine 2,4-diaminoanisole and 2, 4-methoxy-
12 m-phenylenediamine sulfate 2,4-diaminoanisole sulfate.

13 54. The National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health
14 ("NIH") associates hair dye exposure with an increased risk of developing bladder
15 cancer.

16 55. The American Cancer Society notes that hairstylists have an increased
17 risk for bladder cancer, and states that this is "probably because of heavy exposure
18 to hair dyes." Relying on other organizations' analysis, the American Cancer
19 Society lists several ingredients from hair dyes as known human carcinogens (i.e.,
20 IARC Group 1), including: 4-aminobiphenyl (4-ABP); benzidine; and ortho-
21 toluidine. The American Cancer Society also lists the following ingredients of hair
22 dye as probable human carcinogens (i.e., IARC Group 2A): aniline and aniline
23 hydrochloride; 4-chloro-ortho-toluidine.

24 56. There are several possible biological mechanisms that could explain
25 associations between occupational exposure to hair dye products and an increased
26
27
28

1 risk of bladder cancer. For example, a 1975 study by the University of California,
2 Berkley, found that multiple constituents in hair dyes were mutagenic.⁸

3 57. Highly relevant to bladder cancer is the discovery that
4 paraphenylenediamine (“PPD”), one of most common aromatic amines used in
5 Defendants’ hair dyes, is genotoxic to uroepithelial cells, which line the inside of the
6 bladder and form the majority of bladder cancers.

7 58. The presence and number of DNA adducts are considered a direct
8 measure of how much a carcinogen has bound to a cell’s DNA, which can induce
9 mutagenesis. Lactating women who use hair dye were eight times more likely to
10 have 4-ABP-DNA adducts in breast epithelium excreted in milk compared to non-
11 hair-dye users. Among women who had used hair dye more than once in the past 6
12 months, the risk of having 4-ABP DNA adducts increased by 11 times. Risk was
13 increased similarly for temporary and permanent hair dye.

14 59. Defendants were aware or should have been aware of the increased risk
15 of developing bladder cancer from the occupational use of their hair dye products
16 based on their access to these and other scientific studies, ongoing research, internal
17 analysis, and various government standards and regulations.

18 **D. Multiple reliable peer-reviewed studies confirm that frequent
19 and long-term exposure to the Defendants’ hair dye products
20 causes bladder cancer.**

21 60. Dozens of scientific studies in the United States and abroad, conducted
22 over many decades, have consistently shown an increased risk of bladder cancer
23 from occupational exposure to hair dye products.

24 61. The risk of developing bladder cancer from hair dyes is particularly
25 great for hairstylists like Plaintiff because of her frequent exposure to hair dyes in

26

⁸ See Bruce N. Ames et al., *Hair Dyes are Mutagenic: Identification of a Variety of*
27 *Mutagenic Ingredients*, 72 Proc. Nat'l Acad. Sci. 2423 (1975),
28 <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.72.6.2423>.

1 her everyday employment. Hairstylists' exposure to the carcinogenic chemicals in
 2 Defendants' hair dyes is far greater than those who use and apply hair dyes at home.

3 62. A number of studies have analyzed the risk of bladder cancer among
 4 hairstylists. These studies consistently show that ***working as a hairstylist increases***
 5 ***the risk of bladder cancer by 30% or more.*** Moreover, the most recent global meta-
 6 analysis of occupational risk and bladder cancer also found that the risk of bladder
 7 cancer ***mortality*** was 16% higher among hairstylists.

8 63. Two meta-analyses (which aggregate the results of many individual
 9 studies) specifically focus on the risk of bladder cancer among hairstylists. A 2010
 10 meta-analysis by Harling *et al.*⁹, aggregated the findings of 42 other studies on this
 11 topic, each of which involved hairstylists with clinically confirmed bladder cancer.
 12 This analysis found that overall, ***hair stylists are 34% more likely to develop bladder***
 13 ***cancer as a result of occupational exposure to hair dyes.***

14 64. Among the studies evaluated by Harling *et al.*, that focused on long-
 15 term exposure, three looked at people who worked as a hairstylist for five years or
 16 longer. ***The relative risk of bladder cancer in that group was 52% greater.***

17 65. Together, the studies analyzed by Harling *et al.* ranged from the 1970s,
 18 1980s, and 1990s and beyond suggesting that any changes in hair dye formulation
 19 over time have not sufficiently reduced carcinogen exposure for hairstylists.

20 66. Harling *et al.* also found consistent increases in risk across broad
 21 geographic areas in the United States and Canada. Additionally, the relative risk of
 22 bladder cancer was almost identical between the studies that adjusted for smoking
 23 and those that did not.

24

25

26

⁹ Melanie Harling et al., *Bladder Cancer Among Hairdressers: A Meta-Analysis*,
 27 67 Occupational Env't Med. 351 (2010),
 28 <https://doi.org/10.1136/oem.2009.050195>.

1 67. Another meta-analysis—published in the *International Journal of*
 2 *Epidemiology* in 2009 by Takkouche *et al.*—aggregated the results of 34 studies on
 3 cancer risk among hairstylists from 1966 to 2009.¹⁰ Across the studies, the relative
 4 risk of bladder cancer in hairstylists and related occupations was 36% higher. **For**
 5 ***the subset of studies that looked at mortality from bladder cancer, the relative risk***
 6 ***was 53% greater.*** In the four studies that focused on people with more than 10 years
 7 of hairdressing experience (versus no hairdressing), the risk for bladder cancer
 8 ***almost doubled*** (93% greater). The report found no substantial difference in relative
 9 risk by time period, whether the studies were performed in the 1970s or later.

10 68. Other meta-analyses have evaluated the risk of bladder cancer across
 11 many professions, including hairstylists. First, a 2015 global meta-analysis by
 12 Cumberbatch *et al.* in *JAMA Oncology* found that not only did the risk of bladder
 13 cancer increase by 32% among hairstylists, but also that the risk of *mortality* from
 14 bladder cancer increased by 16%.¹¹ It also found that the risk of bladder cancer was
 15 highest among occupations in which employees were routinely exposed to aromatic
 16 amines, specifically listing hairstylists as one of the occupations at issue.

17 69. The Cumberbatch *et al.* study found that the main carcinogen for
 18 hairstylists is 4-aminobiphenyl (4-ABP), which the World Health Organization's
 19 International Agency for Research on Cancer has designated as carcinogenic to
 20 humans (*i.e.* a Group 1 carcinogen). Although the chemical has been restricted since
 21
 22

23

¹⁰ Bahi Takkouche *et al.*, *Risk of Cancer Among Hairdressers and Related*
 24 *Workers: A Meta-Analysis*, 38 *Int'l J. Epidemiology* 1512 (2009),
 25 <https://doi.org/10.1093/ije/dyp283>.

26

¹¹ Marcus G. K. Cumberbatch *et al.*, *Contemporary Occupational Carcinogenic*
 27 *Exposure and Bladder Cancer: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis*, 1 *JAMA*
 28 *Oncology* 1382 (2015), <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamaoncol.2015.3209>.

1 the 1970s, a 2003 study by Turesky *et al.* found that 4-ABP was present in eight out
 2 of eleven hair dyes they purchased and tested that year purchased.¹²

3 70. Second, a 2008 meta-analysis of bladder cancer across occupations by
 4 Reulen *et al.* looked at 29 individual studies and found that the relative risk of
 5 bladder cancer among hairstylists was 23% greater. The authors identified
 6 hairstylists' frequent exposure to hair dyes as the likely culprit of the increased risk,
 7 explaining that hair dyes "may contain arylamines, which may be absorbed via the
 8 skin or inhaled by the lungs," and that "[o]nce processed in the body, concentrated
 9 amounts of arylamines may be found in the bladder, inducing carcinogenic processes
 10 and eventually leading to the development of bladder tumours."¹³

11 71. Third, a 2003 meta-analysis looked at 11 studies of bladder cancer in
 12 men in Western Europe between 1976 and 1997, which were based on more than
 13 3,000 cases. The study investigated associations with occupational exposures.
 14 Among people who worked for more than 25 years as a hairstylist, the study found
 15 a 60% increase in the risk of bladder cancer.¹⁴

16 72. Many other individual studies have also found an increased risk of
 17 bladder cancer among hairstylists. For example, a 2015 study of 15 million
 18 individuals in Northern Europe, which investigated links between occupational
 19 history and cancer risk, found that professional hair coloring was associated with the
 20

21 ¹² Robert J. Turesky et al., *Identification of Aminobiphenyl Derivatives in*
 22 *Commercial Hair Dyes*, 16 Chem. Res. Toxicology 1162 (2003),
 23 <https://doi.org/10.1021/tx030029r>.

24 ¹³ Raoul C. Reulen et al., *A Meta-Analysis on the Association Between Bladder*
 25 *Cancer and Occupation*, 42 Scandinavian Journal of Urology and Nephrology 74
 26 (2010), <https://doi.org/10.1080/03008880802325192>.

27 ¹⁴ Manolis Kogevinas et al., *Occupation and Bladder Cancer Among Men in*
 28 *Western Europe*, 14 Cancer Causes & Control 907 (2003),
<https://doi.org/10.1023/b:caco.0000007962.19066.9c>.

1 second-highest risk level for bladder cancer.¹⁵ A nationwide study in New Zealand
 2 in 2008 found that ***hairstylists were over nine times more likely to develop bladder***
 3 ***cancer.***¹⁶ A 2005 study of occupation and bladder cancer in Sweden found a 26%
 4 increased risk of bladder cancer among hairstylists.¹⁷ A 2001 publication studying
 5 a Los Angeles population of 1,500 cases found that those who had ever been
 6 employed as a hairstylist or barber were at a 50% increased risk of bladder cancer—
 7 but for the people who had worked as a hairstylist or barber for over 10 years, ***the***
 8 ***relative risk became 510% greater.***¹⁸

9

10 **E. The Defendants' hair dyes are not FDA-approved.**

11 73. Federal law does not require cosmetic products or ingredients, other
 12 than color additives, to have FDA approval before they go to market. However, there
 13 are laws and regulations which apply to cosmetics placed into the market.

14 74. The Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. § 301 *et seq.*
 15 (“FDCA”), expressly prohibits the marketing of “adulterated” or “misbranded”
 16 cosmetics in interstate commerce. *Id.* §§ 361-362. Adulteration refers to a violation
 17 involving product composition, whether the adulteration results from ingredients,
 18 contaminants, processing, packaging, shipping, or handling. *Id.* § 361. Under the
 19

20 ¹⁵ Eero Pukkala et al., *Occupation and Cancer—Follow-up of 15 Million People in*
 21 *Five Nordic Countries*, 48 *Acta Oncologica* 646 (2009),
 22 <https://doi.org/10.1080/02841860902913546>.

23 ¹⁶ Evan Dryson et al., *Case-Control Study of High Risk Occupations for Bladder*
 24 *Cancer in New Zealand*, 122 *Int'l J. Cancer* 1340 (2008),
 25 <https://doi.org/10.1002/ijc.23194>.

26 ¹⁷ Jianguang Ji et al., *Occupation and Bladder Cancer: A Cohort Study in Sweden*,
 27 92 *British J. Cancer* 1276 (2005), <https://doi.org/10.1038/sj.bjc.6602473>.

28 ¹⁸ Manuela Gago-Dominguez et al., *Permanent Hair Dyes and Bladder Cancer:*
 29 *Risk Modification by Cytochrome P4501A2 and N-acetyltransferases 1 and 2*, 24
 30 *Carcinogenesis* 483 (2003), <https://doi.org/10.1093/carcin/24.3.483>.

1 FDCA, a cosmetic is adulterated if it contains any poisonous or deleterious substance
2 causing injury to the product user, or if its container is composed, in whole or in part,
3 of any poisonous or deleterious substance which may render the contents injurious
4 to health. *Id.* Misbranding refers to violations involving improperly labeled or
5 deceptively packaged products. *Id.* § 362.

6 75. Under the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1451 *et seq.*
7 (“FPLA”), a cosmetic is misbranded if: (1) its labeling is false or misleading, (2)
8 the label does not include all required information, (3) required information is not
9 prominent and conspicuous, or (4) the packaging and labeling violates an applicable
10 regulation issued pursuant to Sections 3 and 4 of the Poison Prevention Packaging
11 Act of 1970.

12 76. Under federal law, cosmetics manufacturers are not required to submit
13 their safety data to the FDA. However, it is against the law to put an ingredient in a
14 cosmetic that makes the cosmetic harmful when used as intended.¹⁹ An example of
15 such an ingredient is methylene chloride because it causes cancer in animals and is
16 likely harmful to humans. 21 C.F.R. § 700.19.

17 77. Companies and individuals who manufacture and/or market cosmetics
18 have a legal responsibility and duty to ensure the safety of their products. The FDA
19 has consistently advised cosmetics manufacturers to use whatever testing is
20 necessary to ensure the safety of their products and ingredients, which may be
21 determined through: (a) reliance on already available toxicological test data on
22 individual ingredients and product formulations that are similar in composition to

23

24

25

26

¹⁹ *Prohibited & Restricted Ingredients in Cosmetics*, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, <https://www.fda.gov/cosmetics/cosmetics-laws-regulations/prohibited-restricted-ingredients-cosmetics>

1 the cosmetic at issue, and (b) performing any additional toxicological tests or other
 2 tests that are appropriate in light of such existing data and information.²⁰

3 78. Except for color additives and ingredients prohibited or restricted by
 4 regulation, a manufacturer may use any ingredient in the formulation of a cosmetic,
 5 provided that: (1) the ingredient and the finished cosmetic are safe under labeled or
 6 customary conditions of use, (2) the product is properly labeled, and (3) the use of
 7 the ingredient does not otherwise cause the cosmetic to be adulterated or misbranded
 8 under the laws the FDA enforces.

9 79. With regard to whether the product is properly labeled, 21 CFR § 740.1
 10 defines the warning statements required for cosmetic products. Section 740.1 states,
 11 “The label of a cosmetic product **shall** bear a warning statement whenever necessary
 12 or appropriate to prevent a health hazard that **may** be associated with the product”
 13 (emphasis added). This duty to warn corresponds to the broad responsibility of
 14 manufacturers to ensure that their cosmetic products are safe under labeled or
 15 customary conditions of use, properly labeled, and not adulterated or misbranded
 16 under FDA laws.

17 80. When a manufacturer is unable to adequately substantiate the safety of
 18 their product before marketing it, the product is misbranded if the principal display
 19 panel does not include the following “conspicuous statement” from 21 CFR §
 20 740.10: “: “*Warning* – The safety of this product has not been determined.”

21 81. The current regulatory framework requires Defendants to assess the
 22 safety of their hair dye Products and warn users, including professional hairstylists,
 23 of any and all health hazards.

24
 25
 26

²⁰ *FDA Authority Over Cosmetics: How Cosmetics Are Not FDA-Approved, but*
 27 *Are FDA-Regulated*, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Mar. 3, 2005,
 28 <https://www.fda.gov/cosmetics/cosmetics-laws-regulations/fda-authority-over-cosmetics-how-cosmetics-are-not-fda-approved-are-fda-regulated>.

1 82. Further, Defendants had the capacity to design hair dye Products that
2 were safer than the Products they manufactured, marketed, and sold. The alternative
3 Product designs that Defendants could have used would not have changed the
4 intended purpose of the Products. Such alternative safer designs include, but are not
5 limited to, replacing toxic chemicals with readily available natural ingredients.

6 **F. Ms. Matarazzo developed bladder cancer from her exposure to**
7 **Defendants' hair dyes, forcing her to undergo painful,**
8 **stressful, and expensive treatment and monitoring.**

9 83. Ms. Matarazzo used and applied professional hair dyes manufactured
10 by Henkel AG & Co. KGaA a/k/a Henkel Consumer Goods, Inc.; Henkel
11 Corporation d/b/a Henkel North American Consumer Goods; Wella International
12 Operations Switzerland S.A.R.L, Wella Operations US LLC d/b/a The Wella
13 Company; Clairol; L'Oréal USA, Inc.; L'Oréal USA Products, Inc.; and L'Oréal
14 S.A. at various points while working as a professional hair stylist from 1988 to 1999.

15 84. For each hair dye used, Ms. Matarazzo mixed and applied the product
16 in accordance with the instructions provided on the product's label or contained
17 within its packaging.

18 85. None of the Defendants' hair dyes that Ms. Matarazzo used and applied
19 contained any warning that long-term occupational exposure to Defendants'
20 products could cause bladder cancer or increase the risk of developing bladder
21 cancer.

22 86. Ms. Matarazzo was diagnosed with bladder cancer in October of 2017.
23 She was fifty years old at the time of her diagnosis.

24 87. Ms. Matarazzo suffered significant pain and mental distress from the
25 chemotherapy treatment that she underwent to try and treat her cancer. She had
26 surgery to remove the cancer in November of 2017, which was incredibly painful
27 and expensive. The recovery process was long and filled with nausea, pain, and
28

1 depression. She still has to have a scope inserted into her bladder every six months
2 to see if her cancer has worsened.

3 88. Ms. Matarazzo has suffered injuries, including her bladder cancer and
4 the resulting necessary treatments, which were directly and proximately caused by
5 her exposure to and use of Defendants' hair dyes.

6 89. Ms. Matarazzo has also suffered pain and severe emotional distress as
7 a result of her bladder cancer, related treatments, and related health problems.

8 90. Ms. Matarazzo did not know and could not know that her occupational
9 exposure to Defendants' hair dye products could cause her bladder cancer.

10 91. Additionally, the running of any statute of limitations has been
11 equitably tolled by reason of Defendants' conduct. Through their affirmative
12 misrepresentations and omissions, Defendants actively concealed from Plaintiff the
13 true risks associated with the exposure the hair dye products.

14 92. As a result of Defendants' actions, Plaintiff was unaware, and could not
15 reasonably know, or could not have reasonably learned through reasonable
16 diligence, that Plaintiff had been exposed to the risks alleged.

17 93. As a result of Defendants' acts and/or omissions, Ms. Matarazzo has
18 suffered and will continue to suffer bladder cancer and other physical injuries,
19 medical and hospital costs, economic damages, severe emotional distress, mental
20 pain and suffering, fear of cancer recurrence, humiliation, embarrassment, fear,
21 annoyance, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment of life, lost wages and other damages
22 under the law, which Ms. Matarazzo is entitled to recover.

23

24

25

26

27

28

V. CAUSES OF ACTION

COUNT I:

Strict Liability (Failure to Warn)

Against All Defendants

94. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in Paragraphs 14 to 93 as if fully restated herein.

95. At all pertinent times, Defendants manufactured, marketed, promoted, sold, and/or distributed their hair dye products in the regular course of business.

9 96. Defendants designed their hair dye products to be used and applied by
10 professional hair stylists such as Plaintiff. Defendants knew then, and still know
11 now, that these stylists generally use and apply hair dyes on a daily basis, multiple
12 times per day, and therefore it was foreseeable that Plaintiff would do so.

13 97. Plaintiff did in fact use and apply Defendants' hair dye products apply
14 by hand to her clients' hair on a daily basis, multiple times per day, over the course
15 of her 11-year career as a professional hair stylist.

16 98. Plaintiff used and applied Defendants' hair dye products in a manner
17 intended and/or foreseeable by Defendants, and in accordance with all instructions
18 provided to her by Defendants.

19 99. Defendants' hair dye products reached Plaintiff without any substantial
20 changes to the condition in which they were manufactured, sold, or otherwise
21 released into the stream of commerce by Defendants.

22 100. At all pertinent times, Defendants knew or should have known that the
23 occupational use of their hair dye products—by professional hair stylists, in
24 particular—significantly increases the risk of developing severe and/or life-
25 threatening health conditions, specifically bladder cancer. Defendants knew or
26 should have known that this risk exists even when their products are used (or
27 misused) in the intended manner, or in a manner reasonably foreseeable to
28 Defendants.

1 101. Such risks were known and/or knowable to Defendants at all pertinent
2 times, especially, but not solely because of, the scientific, peer-reviewed academic
3 literature available at the time Defendants designed, manufactured, marketed, and
4 sold their hair dye products.

5 102. Defendants knew or should have known that the ordinary
6 consumers/users of their hair dye products, especially professional stylists such as
7 Plaintiff, would not have (and did not) recognize or discover the increased risk of
8 bladder cancer caused by the occupational use of Defendants' hair dye products.

9 103. Defendants owed a duty to Plaintiff, as a professional hair stylist and
10 foreseeable user of their products, to warn her of that occupational exposure to
11 Defendants' hair dye products significantly increases her risk of bladder cancer.

12 104. Despite their knowledge of the risks, Defendants failed to warn
13 Plaintiff—through their products' labeling, packaging, instructions, marketing,
14 advertising, or any other mode of communication—that frequent, daily, continuous,
15 and/or long-term exposure to their hair dye products, especially by professional hair
16 stylists, could cause or greatly increase the risk of bladder cancer.

17 105. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' failure to warn, Plaintiff
18 has suffered and will continue to suffer bladder cancer and other physical injuries,
19 medical and hospital costs, economic damages, severe emotional distress, mental
20 pain and suffering, fear of cancer recurrence, humiliation, embarrassment, fear,
21 annoyance, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment of life, lost wages and other damages
22 under the law, which Plaintiff is entitled to recover. Defendants' failure to warn
23 Plaintiff was a substantial factor in causing each of the damages outlined herein.

24 106. As a result of Defendants' lack of adequate and sufficient warnings and
25 instructions, and their inadequate and misleading advertising, Defendants are liable
26 for damages to Plaintiff.

27

28

COUNT II:

Strict Liability (Design & Manufacturing Defect)

Against All Defendants

107. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in Paragraphs 14 to 93 as if fully restated herein.

108. At all relevant times, Defendants designed, developed, manufactured, marketed, sold, and distributed their hair dye products in a defective and unreasonably dangerous condition.

9 109. Defendants placed (or caused to be placed) their hair dye products into
10 the stream of commerce to be sold, used, and applied at professional hair salons by
11 professional hair stylists.

12 110. Defendants' hair dye products were expected to (and did) reach
13 professional hair stylists, including Plaintiff, without any change in the condition in
14 which they were manufactured and sold by Defendants and/or otherwise released
15 into the stream of commerce.

16 111. In each instance, Plaintiff used and applied Defendants' hair dye
17 products in a manner intended, recommended, promoted, marketed, and reasonably
18 foreseeable by Defendants.

19 112. Defendants' hair dye products failed to perform safely even though
20 Plaintiff used and applied Defendants' hair dye products in a manner intended,
21 recommended, promoted, marketed, and reasonably foreseeable by Defendants.

113. The increased risk of bladder cancer caused by occupational exposure
to Defendants' hair dyes, even when used as instructed and/or intended, renders the
products unreasonably dangerous to an extent beyond what would have been
contemplated by an ordinary, reasonable user—especially professional stylists such
as Plaintiff.

114. Any benefits of Defendants' hair dye products as they were designed
and manufactured were and continue to be substantially outweighed by the

1 significant health risks inherent in the way that Defendants designed and
2 manufactured the products at the pertinent times.

3 115. Defendants' hair dye products are inessential cosmetic products that do
4 not treat or cure any serious disease.

5 116. Defendants could have manufactured and designed their products in
6 safer, alternative ways. For example, Defendants did not and do not have to use
7 known and/or probable carcinogens in the design and manufacturing of their hair
8 dye products. They could have designed and manufactured their products without
9 such ingredients, but they chose not to.

10 117. Defendants knew, or by the exercise of reasonable care should have
11 known, that their hair dye products were and are unreasonably dangerous because of
12 their carcinogenic nature. Nonetheless, Defendants designed, manufactured, sold,
13 distributed, marketed, promoted, and supplied their products to professional hair
14 salons and stylists, including Plaintiff.

15 118. The sale of their hair dye products benefits Defendants with revenue
16 and profits, but it does so at the expense of the health and safety of Plaintiff and
17 others like her in conscious disregard of the foreseeable harm to those users.

18 119. Defendants owed a duty to Plaintiff and all other reasonably foreseeable
19 users to design their products to be safe for ordinary use.

20 120. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' defective design and/or
21 manufacturing of their hair dye products, Plaintiff suffered and will continue to
22 suffer bladder cancer and other physical injuries, medical and hospital costs,
23 economic damages, severe emotional distress, mental pain and suffering, fear of
24 cancer recurrence, humiliation, embarrassment, fear, annoyance, inconvenience,
25 loss of enjoyment of life, lost wages and other damages under the law, which
26 Plaintiff is entitled to recover.

27 121. Defendants' defective design and manufacture of their products was a
28 substantial factor in causing Plaintiff's harm.

1 122. As a result of Defendants' manufacture, sale, and/or distribution of
2 defective products, Defendants are liable in damages to Plaintiff.

COUNT III:

Negligent Failure to Warn

Against All Defendants

7 123. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in
8 Paragraphs 14 to 93 as if fully restated herein.

9 124. At all pertinent times, Defendants manufactured, marketed, promoted,
10 sold, and/or distributed their hair dye products in the regular course of business.

11 125. Defendants designed their hair dye products to be used and applied by
12 professional hair stylists such as Plaintiff. Defendants knew then, and still know
13 now, that these stylists generally use and apply hair dyes on a daily basis, multiple
14 times per day, and therefore it was foreseeable that Plaintiff would do so.

15 126. Plaintiff did in fact use and apply Defendants' hair dye products apply
16 by hand to her clients' hair on a daily basis, multiple times per day, over the course
17 of her 11-year career as a professional hair stylist.

18 127. Plaintiff used and applied Defendants' hair dye products in a manner
19 intended and/or foreseeable by Defendants, and in accordance with all instructions
20 provided to her by Defendants.

21 128. Defendants' hair dye products reached Plaintiff without any substantial
22 changes to the condition in which they were manufactured, sold, or otherwise
23 released into the stream of commerce by Defendants.

24 129. At all pertinent times, Defendants knew or should have known that the
25 occupational use of their hair dye products—by professional hair stylists, in
26 particular—significantly increases the risk of developing severe and/or life-
27 threatening health conditions, specifically bladder cancer. Defendants knew or

1 should have known that this risk exists even when their products are used (or
2 misused) in the manner intended, or reasonably foreseeable to, Defendants.

3 130. Such risks were known and/or knowable to Defendants at all pertinent
4 times, especially, but not solely because of, the scientific, peer-reviewed academic
5 literature available at the time Defendants designed, manufactured, marketed, and
6 sold their hair dye products.

7 131. Defendants knew or should have known that the ordinary
8 consumers/users of their hair dye products, especially professional stylists such as
9 Plaintiff, would not have (and did not) recognize or discover the increased risk of
10 bladder cancer caused by the occupational use of Defendants' hair dye products.

11 132. Defendants owed a duty to Plaintiff, as a professional hair stylist and
12 foreseeable user of their products, to warn her that occupational exposure to
13 Defendants' hair dye products significantly increases her risk of bladder cancer.

14 133. Despite their knowledge of the risks, Defendants failed to warn
15 Plaintiff—through their products' labeling, packaging, instructions, marketing,
16 advertising, or any other mode of communication—that frequent, daily, continuous,
17 and/or long-term exposure to their hair dye products, especially by professional hair
18 stylists, could cause or greatly increase the risk of bladder cancer.

19 134. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' failure to warn, Plaintiff
20 has suffered and will continue to suffer bladder cancer and other physical injuries,
21 medical and hospital costs, economic damages, severe emotional distress, mental
22 pain and suffering, fear of cancer recurrence, humiliation, embarrassment, fear,
23 annoyance, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment of life, lost wages and other damages
24 under the law, which Plaintiff is entitled to recover. Defendants' failure to warn
25 Plaintiff was a substantial factor in causing each of the damages outlined herein.

26 135. As a result of Defendants' lack of adequate and sufficient warnings and
27 instructions, and their inadequate and misleading advertising, Defendants are liable
28 for damages to Plaintiff.

COUNT IV:
Gross Negligence
Against All Defendants

136. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in Paragraphs 14 to 93 as if fully restated herein.

137. At all relevant times, Defendants engaged in the design, development, manufacture, marketing, sale, and distribution of their hair dye products in a defective condition unreasonably dangerous to professional hairstylists, including Plaintiff, and other users of their hair dye products.

10 138. Defendants caused the products to enter the stream of commerce and to
11 be sold through various retailers, at which they were purchased by Plaintiff or by her
12 employer for her use at work.

13 139. Defendants' hair dye products were expected to, and did, reach
14 professional hair stylists, including Plaintiff, without change in the condition in
15 which it was manufactured and sold by Defendants and/or otherwise released into
16 the stream of commerce.

17 140. Plaintiff used Defendants' hair products in a manner normally intended,
18 recommended, promoted, and marketed by Defendants.

19 141. Defendants' hair dyes failed to perform safely when used by Plaintiff
20 in a reasonably foreseeable manner, as evident by the fact that they increased her
21 risk of developing bladder cancer.

22 142. Defendants knew, or by the exercise of reasonable care should have
23 known, that their hair dye products are unreasonably dangerous. Nevertheless, they
24 have continued to design, manufacture, sell, distribute, market, promote, and supply
25 their hair dyes to maximize sales and profits at the expense of public health and
26 safety, and in conscious disregard of the foreseeable harm to the consuming public,
27 including Plaintiff.

1 143. Defendants owed a duty to all reasonably foreseeable users, especially
2 Plaintiff (a professional hair stylist) to design their hair dye products in a way that is
3 safe when used as intended or reasonably foreseen.

4 144. At all pertinent times, Defendants:

5 (a) Failed to design their hair dye products so that they were safe
6 when used as intended or in a manner reasonably foreseeable to Defendants;

7 (b) Failed to manufacture their hair dye products so that they were
8 safe when used as intended or in a manner reasonably foreseeable to Defendants;

9 (c) Failed to use safer, feasible alternative designs in the design of
10 their hair dye products so that they were safe when used as intended or in a manner
11 reasonably foreseeable to Defendants;

12 (d) Failed to properly warn Plaintiff of the known or knowable
13 increased risk of bladder cancer associated with occupational use of their products;

14 (e) Failed to properly test their hair dye products to determine their
15 safety—and/or the adequacy and effectiveness of warnings and/or instructions in the
16 labeling, packaging, instructions, advertising, or marketing of their products—as it
17 relates to occupational use by professional hair stylists such as Plaintiff;

18 (f) Failed to instruct or inform users, including Plaintiff, of adequate
19 safety and handling measures when using their products; and/or

20 (g) Misled, misrepresented, and/or falsely stated that their hair dye
21 products were safe to use.

22 145. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' negligence, Plaintiff
23 has suffered and will continue to suffer medical and hospital, physical injury,
24 economic damages, severe emotional distress, mental pain and suffering, fear of
25 cancer recurrence, humiliation, embarrassment, fear, annoyance, inconvenience,
26 loss of enjoyment of life, lost wages and other damages under the law, which
27 Plaintiff is entitled to recover.

28

1 146. Defendants' negligence was a substantial factor in causing Plaintiff's
2 harm—specifically, her bladder cancer.

3 147. As a result of Defendants' acts and omissions, Defendants are liable to
4 Plaintiff for damages caused by their negligence.

5

COUNT V:

7 || **Fraud**

8 || *Against All Defendants*

9 148. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in
10 Paragraphs 14 to 93 as if fully restated herein.

11 149. Defendants engaged in the development, manufacture, marketing, sale
12 and distribution of their hair dye products, and thus owed a duty to provide accurate
13 and complete information regarding the safety of said products.

14 150. Defendants each fraudulently misrepresented the use of their hair dye
15 products as safe. For example:

16 (a) Henkel marketed its professional hair dye products as safe, often
17 downplaying potential health risks associated with their use. For instance, it
18 marketed its Schwarzkopf Professional *Igora Royal* line with claims of superior
19 scalp comfort, suggesting a product that is both effective and gentle.

20 (b) Wella's *Illumina Color* line was marketed as a breakthrough in
21 hair dye technology which "protects hair while delivering a luminous, natural look."

22 (c) Clairol's product, *Beautiful Collection*, is a semi-permanent hair
23 color line advertised as offering "rich, natural-looking color" with "zero-damage."

24 (d) L'Oréal marketed *Majirel*, as "the first-ever protective color"
25 product designed exclusively for application by professional stylists in salons.

26 151. Defendants made the above misrepresentations and false statements
27 despite knowing that they were false.

1 152. At all pertinent times, Defendants committed of one or more of the
2 following acts and/or omissions:

3 (a) Knowingly made misrepresentations that were material, false,
4 incomplete, misleading, deceptive and deceitful;

5 (b) Knowingly made omissions that were material, false,
6 incomplete, misleading, deceptive and deceitful;

7 (c) Knowingly made misrepresentations for the purpose of
8 deceiving and defrauding users, including Plaintiff; or

9 (d) Knowingly made omissions for the purpose of deceiving and
10 defrauding users, including Plaintiff.

11 153. Plaintiff relied, with reasonable justification, on the misrepresentations
12 by Defendants, which induced her to purchase and use their hair dye products on a
13 regular basis for years.

14 154. Defendants profited, significantly, from their unethical and illegal
15 conduct that fraudulently induced Plaintiff and other professional hairstylists like
16 her to use their dangerous and defective products in their everyday work.

17 155. Defendants' fraudulent and misleading representations, and Plaintiff's
18 justifiable reliance thereon, were substantial contributing factors in causing
19 Plaintiff's injuries.

20 156. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' fraud, Plaintiff has
21 suffered and will continue to suffer medical and hospitals, physical injury, economic
22 damages, severe emotional distress, mental pain and suffering, fear of cancer
23 recurrence, humiliation, embarrassment, fear, annoyance, inconvenience, loss of
24 enjoyment of life, lost wages and other damages under the law, which Plaintiff is
25 entitled to recover.

26 157. Defendants are liable to Plaintiff for damages caused by their fraud.

27

28

COUNT VI:

Violations of California Unfair Competition Law

Against All Defendants

158. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in Paragraphs 14 to 93 as if fully restated herein.

159. Plaintiff asserts this claim pursuant to the California Unfair Competition Law (“UCL”), Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200, *et seq.*, prohibits “unfair competition” including any “unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business act or practice.”

10 160. Defendants engaged in unlawful, unfair and fraudulent business acts
11 and practices in violation of the UCL. Defendants' conduct violates the UCL in at
12 least the following ways:

13 (a) failing to disclose or warn Plaintiff of the hazards associated with
14 the use of the products;

15 (b) failing to properly test their products to determine adequacy and
16 effectiveness or safety measures, if any, prior to releasing the Products for consumer
17 use;

18 (c) failing to properly test their Products to determine the increased
19 risk of bladder cancer during the normal and/or intended use of the products;

20 (d) failing to inform ultimate users, such as Plaintiffs, as to the safe
21 and proper methods of handling and using the products; failing to remove the
22 products from the market when the Defendants knew or should have known the hair
23 dye products were defective;

24 (e) failing to instruct the ultimate users, such as Plaintiff, as to the
25 methods for reducing the type of exposure to the products which caused increased
26 risk of bladder cancer;

27 (f) failing to disclose to the public in general and the Plaintiff in
28 particular the known dangers of using the products:

1 (g) failing to advise users how to prevent or reduce exposure that
2 caused increased risk for bladder cancer;

3 (h) marketing and labelling the Products as safe for all uses despite
4 knowledge to the contrary; and,

5 (i) failing to act like a reasonably prudent company under similar
6 circumstances.

7 161. At all relevant times alleged herein, Defendants were aware of the
8 foregoing, and that the products were not safe, fit, and effective for use as intended.
9 Furthermore, Defendants were aware that the use of the products was hazardous to
10 health, and that the Products carry a significant propensity to cause serious injuries
11 to users including, but not limited to, the injuries suffered by Plaintiff as alleged
12 herein.

13 162. At all relevant times alleged herein, that Defendants intentionally
14 concealed and suppressed the true facts concerning the products with the intent to
15 defraud the Plaintiff, other consumers, and the public in general, in that Defendants
16 knew that Plaintiff would not have used the products if she had known the true facts
17 concerning the risks and dangers of the hair dye products.

18 163. At all relevant times alleged herein, that as a result of the foregoing
19 fraudulent and deceitful conduct by Defendants, Plaintiff suffered injuries and
20 damages as alleged herein.

164. The foregoing fraudulent and deceitful conduct by Defendants amounts
to unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent practices in violation of the UCL.

23 165. Defendants' acts, omissions, and practices described above constitute
24 "unfair" practices because they are contrary to California's legislatively declared
25 policy condemning deceptive advertising and marketing of goods and services.
26 Defendants falsely represented the nature, quality, condition, ingredients, health
27 hazards, and dangers posed by the hair dye products.

1 166. Defendants' conduct constitutes unfair methods of competition and
2 business practices.

3 167. Defendants' acts, omissions, and practices described above are contrary
4 to California public policy and constitute immoral, unethical, and unscrupulous
5 practices that caused substantial injury to Plaintiff.

6 168. All of Defendants' unlawful and unfair conduct, failures to disclose,
7 and fraudulent practices and misrepresentations alleged herein occurred in the course
8 of Defendants' respective businesses and were part of a generalized course of
9 conduct.

10 169. Defendants' unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent conduct alleged herein
11 was designed to and did induce Plaintiff to purchase their products.

12 170. Plaintiff would not have used the hair dye products but for Defendants'
13 unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent business conduct.

14 171. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unlawful, unfair, and
15 fraudulent business conduct, Plaintiff has suffered concrete and particularized
16 injuries, including monetary loss in the form of medical expenses, lost income and
17 earning potential, and multiple other out-of-pocket expenses that she otherwise
18 would not have incurred.

19 172. Plaintiff is entitled to appropriate relief, including restitution and a
20 permanent injunction prohibiting Defendants from engaging in the aforementioned
21 practices that violate the UCL. Plaintiff further seeks reasonable attorneys' fees and
22 costs under applicable law including California Code of Civil Procedure 1021.5

23

24

25

26

27

28

1 **VI. JURY TRIAL DEMAND**

2 Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 38(b) Plaintiff hereby demands a
3 trial by jury on all triable issues within this action.

4

5 **VII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

6 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants on each of
7 the above-referenced claims and causes of action, and as follows:

8 (a) Awarding past and future non-economic compensatory damages
9 including, but not limited to, physical injury, loss of bodily function, pain, suffering,
10 discomfort, fright, nervousness, anxiety, worry, apprehension, emotional distress,
11 loss of enjoyment of life, and other non-economic damages in an amount to be
12 determined at trial of this action;

13 (b) Awarding past and future economic damages in the form of
14 medical expenses, out-of-pocket expenses, lost earnings, opportunity costs, and
15 other economic damages in an amount to be determined at trial of this action;

16 (c) Awarding damages and/or equitable relief to provide medical
17 monitoring for the early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of injuries related to the
18 Products and prevention of exacerbation of such injuries;

19 (d) Awarding punitive and/or exemplary damages for Defendants'
20 wanton, willful, fraudulent, reckless acts which demonstrated a complete disregard
21 and reckless indifference for the safety and welfare of the general public, and to
22 Plaintiff, in an amount sufficient to punish Defendants and deter future misconduct;

23 (e) Statutory damages;

24 (f) Prejudgment interest;

25 (g) Post-judgment interest;

26 (h) Plaintiff's reasonable attorneys' fees and costs;

27

28

- (i) The costs of these proceedings; *and*
- (j) Such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

DATED: March 6, 2025

s/ Brian O. O'Mara
BRIAN O. O'MARA

Brian O'Mara (Bar No. 229737)
Steven M. Jodlowski (Bar No. 239074)
DICELLO LEVITT LLP
4747 Executive Drive, Suite 240
San Diego, California 92121
Tel.: (619) 923-3939
briano@dicellosevitt.com
stevej@dicellosevitt.com

Diandra S. Debrosse*
Eli J. Hare*
DICELLO LEVITT LLP
505 20th Street S, Suite 1500
Birmingham, Alabama 35203
Tel.: (205) 855-5700
fu@dicelloselevitt.com
ehare@dicelloselevitt.com

Mark Abramowitz*
DICELLO LEVITT LLP
8160 Norton Parkway, 3rd Floor
Mentor, Ohio 44030
Tel.: (440) 953-8888
mabramowitz@dicellolevitt.com

Counsel for Plaintiff

**Pro hac vice application forthcoming*